

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

LUFKIN DIVISION

KEITH BERNARD VANDERBILT	§	
VS.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. 9:12cv144
DIRECTOR, TDCJ-CID	§	

MEMORANDUM OPINION REGARDING TRANSFER

Petitioner Keith Bernard Vanderbilt, an inmate confined at the Polunsky Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division, proceeding *pro se*, brings this petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

The above-styled action was referred to the undersigned magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636 and the Amended Order for the Adoption of Local Rules for the Assignment of Duties to the United States Magistrate Judge for findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for the disposition of the case.

Discussion

On March 31, 2008, in the 104th Judicial District Court for Taylor County, Texas, petitioner was convicted of sexual assault and attempted sexual assault. Petitioner was sentenced to a term of life in prison with twenty years to be served concurrently. Petitioner brings this petition contesting the legality of his conviction and sentence, asserting he was denied effective assistance of counsel.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d), a petitioner may bring his petition for writ of habeas corpus in the district court for the district wherein such person is in custody or in the district court for the district within which he was convicted. Section 2241(d) further provides that the district court in the exercise of its discretion may transfer the action to the other district in the furtherance of justice.

Petitioner is currently confined at the Polunsky Unit in Livingston, Texas. However, petitioner was convicted and sentenced in Taylor County, Texas. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 124, Taylor County is in the Abilene Division of the Northern District of Texas.

While jurisdiction is proper in the Eastern District of Texas because the prisoner is confined within the district court's territorial boundaries, the court has considered the circumstances and has determined that the interest of justice would best be served if this petition were transferred to the division in which the petitioner was convicted.

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a), for the convenience of parties and witnesses and in the interest of justice, a district court may transfer any civil action to any other district or division where it could have been brought. Such a transfer may be done *sua sponte* and is reviewable only for an abuse of discretion. *Mills v. Beech Aircraft Corp.*, 886 F.2d 758, 761 (5th Cir. 1989).

Since petitioner complains of a conviction which occurred in the Northern District of Texas and all records and witnesses involving this action may be located in the Northern District, the transfer of this action to such division would further justice. Therefore, it is the opinion of the undersigned that this petition should be transferred to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Abilene Division. An Order of Transfer so providing shall be entered in accordance with this Memorandum Order.

SIGNED this the 19th day of October, 2012.



KEITH F. GIBLIN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE